

C. A. Isom testifies by affidavit in substance as follows:

"Some time about the latter part of March or the first of April, 1914 I met C.W.Burke. Burke was at work on the case of the State vs Leo M. Frank. He asked me to try to locate a negro by the name of Mark Wilson and also another negro by the name of William Calhoun, also a negro by the name of Ed Whatley. Burke stated that these negroes Wilson and Whatley were working at the time Mary Phagan was killed in a livery stable next door to the National Pencil Company's place of business and he wanted to show by them that they heard a girl crying in the National Company's place of business about 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon, in the basement. He said that they wanted to find William Calhoun to show by him that the detectives had him down at the station house to talk with Jim Conley. He said that Conley stated to the detectives that he could show by Calhoun that he didn't pull the staple on the basement door at the basement of the factory and that if the detectives found Calhoun and had him down there and confronted him and Conley, that Calhoun would swear that he, Jim Conley, did not pull the staple. The detectives, said Burke, got Calhou and had him down, but Calhoun stated that he did not know Conley. Burke said that Calhoun might know a whole lot and he wanted to get hold of him. Burke promised to pay me and did pay me while trying to locate these negroes – three dollars a day. I found out and reported that Mark Wilson had gone to Virginia. I found out at the home of William Calhoun that he was at 4232 Wabash Avenue, Chicago. I found that Whatley had been in the chaingang. I went to the chaingang and found that he had just gotten out, which I reported to Burke, and then I discovered that he had been living in Dovers Alley in Atlanta; and then I dropped that part of the investigation.

"I am personally acquainted with one Jim Wrenn. Jim has been working with C.W.Burke on this Frank case and is at work on it now. I received a note about the first of April from Wrenn, telling me to see Burke. I saw C.W.Burke and he wanted me to go to Chicago to get an affidavit from Aaron Allen, a negro that I had known in Atlanta. Burke also stated that he wanted me to talk while in Chicago to William Calhoun. I was paid three dollars a day and given one hundred dollars to cover expenses on this trip. Burke said he wanted to show by Allen that he had been in the cell with Jim Conley and that Conley had confessed to him that he murdered Mary Phagan. Burke said that Jake Jacobs, a Jew living in Atlanta, had been up in Chicago trying to get this affidavit. He also stated that Stiles Hopkins, an attorney in the office of L.Z.Rosser, one of Frank's attorneys, was then in Chicago. Burke said that Allen was sore with Burns' men and didn't know those men and if it took any dinners, cigars and setting up, for me to use whatever money was necessary to get Allen in a good humor. Burke said 'Tell Allen that the detectives and Dorsey will all be down and out and will be up; so don't be afraid on their account and make an affidavit.'

"I left Atlanta on April 2nd, 1914 and arrived at Chicago on April 3d. I went to the office of W.J.Burns' Detective Agency in Chicago in the Transportation building. I met there Aaron Allen. Allen told me that Burns' crowd had arrested him in Indianapolis and had brought him to Chicago. Allen furthermore stated that he had consumption and was nearly dead and had been in a hospital about six months in Indianapolis. Allen came into Burns private office and there I talked to him alone. Allen told me he was not in the cell with Conley at all and did not know Jim Conley and never spoke to Jim Conley in his life. Allen further said that no detective had ever spoken to him about Jim Conley until he was approached some time recently in Indianapolis, Ind. by one of Burns' men.

"I talked with Allen two hours, and after my talk with Allen I personally reported to W.J.Burns that Allen said he didn't know anything at all about the matters that Burke had instructed me to ask him about, and that he didn't know Conley and that he had never talked to any detectives about Conley except at Indianapolis. Burns throwing his hands to one side, and to me 'Well, why did he leave Atlanta?' I said to him: 'Allen tells me that he left Atlanta of his own free will and accord.' Burns then said 'Well, where did he get hold of three hundred dollars?' I said 'Allen tells me that he got that money selling whiskey and running a gambling house.' Burns said 'He is a God Damn lie and just loyal to the police and he is afraid that if he goes back there, they will jump on him.' Then Burns said 'Go on

back and talk to him again; you can make him come across.' I told Burns that I was hungry and was going out to get a lunch and I then left and was gone about an hour and a half. When I got back to Burns' office after lunch I found Allen locked in a little room in the rear of a larger room on the door of which was printed 'Fire Escape.' In the room where I found Allen was a large cage, which one of Burns' negro detectives showed me could be set up in a very short while, made to resemble a cage in a jail. I talked to Allen in this room. Allen on this second visit told me: 'Mr. Isom, I will make that affidavit, but it will be a lie.' I told Allen I didn't want him to make this affidavit unless it was the truth. I then went in and told W.J. Burns that Allen said he would make that affidavit but it would be a lie. Then Burns said 'I will talk to him in a few minutes.' In a few minutes Burns went back and got Allen and brought him in his office. Burns then said to Allen 'You God damn bastard; you are just loyal to those policemen and you are telling me a damn lie and you just as well come on across and tell me all about it.' After this the door which led into Burns' private office was closed and I heard loud talking but could not understand what was said. I afterwards came from Chicago to Chattanooga on the same train with W.J. Burns; and the next morning on the sleeper Burns told me that Allen gave him the very affidavit that he wanted after I left Burns' office that night.

"While I was in Burns' office talking to Allen, on the day I got to Chicago, Burns was talking to William Calhoun in the next room. Stiles Hopkins came out of the room in which Calhoun was, for the purpose of talking to me in the hall, leaving the door open into Burns' room. When he opened the door I recognized Burns' voice and saw Calhoun, and I heard Burns say: 'You are a damn liar, you bastard, you!' Calhoun told Burns he was not at the station house in Atlanta and that the detectives had never talked to him about Jim Conley and that he did not know him. 'This man's name was never mentioned to me until your men came out to my house the other day' Calhoun said. Hopkins passed out of the room in which Burns and Calhoun were, into the hall, and said to me: 'Don't say anything to anybody about my being here. Don't tell Allen that I am here.' Hopkins said that Burns' son said that Allen wanted to talk to him, and Hopkins said 'Tell him that it is not Hopkins who is here, but somebody else' – whose name he gave me but which I have forgotten. I then went back and talked to Allen. A little while after that they let Calhoun go. Burns' son told me that they got an affidavit from Calhoun but I did not see it and do not know what it was.

"After Calhoun left a white man went into Burns' office and Burns and Hopkins talked to him. He was in appearance a Jew. I do not know his name. Burns' son afterwards showed me an affidavit which he said was signed by the man that I saw going into the office to talk to Hopkins and Burns. I read the affidavit. It was signed by someone whose name begins with "S", and as I remember it, the name was something like 'Stoll'. I am not sure about this name. The affidavit stated that the maker was 28 years old; that he was a citizen of Chicago, Ill. and said that he was with the Salvation Army in Atlanta when the murder of Mary Phagan happened and was at the rear of the National Pencil Factory's place of business on the afternoon of April 26th, 1913. The affidavit said he left because sentiment was so strong that he was afraid he would get into some trouble. The affidavit stated that he told a detective about the matters testified to in this office and that the detective's name was 'Shott' or 'Scott'. That the detective said to him that he, the detective, was running that business and for him to go ahead and attend to his business, and that he, the detective, would look after that matter. The affidavit stated that this man saw, on the afternoon of April 26th, 1913, a tall, black negro come out of the back end of the pencil factory and go up to Hunter Street and buy a lunch from an old negro woman and as he came out of the National pencil factory he dropped a pocket book and a day book which he, the said Stoll (or whoever he was) picked up. There was a pocket book and a day book lying there on the table which Burns' son told me was the one. It was a small, black pocket book, something like a card case, and the day book was longer than the pocket book, black, and had written in the back end of it the word 'Conley' plain, with a little scratching before the word 'Conley'."